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Chemical Safety Board issues Tech with open acceptable response



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
ON JAN. 7, 2010, a graduate student was seriously injured in the Chemistry building after an explosion. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board recently granted Tech with an "Open-Acceptable Response" concerning the investigation.

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board recently granted Texas Tech with an "Open-Acceptable Response" regarding the investigation into a 2010 incident at the Chemistry building, which seriously injured a graduate student.

The favorable report, received by letter on June 25, is due to Tech's efforts to implement the CSB's safety recommendations.

"We are taking compliance around these recommendations and are becoming an exemplary institution," said Taylor Eighmy, senior vice president for research. "This was one of our highest orders of business here at the university."

Alice Young, associate vice president for research, said that in January 2010, a graduate student in the department of chemistry and biochemistry had an accident while conducting work on an energetics project, which is a project to research materials that could become energetic and explode in certain ways.

In the course of the experiment, the student made much more of the material than was called for in the laboratory protocol. When he attempted to break the large quantity of material into smaller pieces, the pressure of the grinding caused the material to explode.

"It blew off part of his hand and the material injured one of his eyes," Young said.

As a result of that explosion, she said, the CSB came to Tech to investigate.

The CSB is charged with investigating chemical workplaces and other places that use large amounts of chemicals.

Young said Tech was the first university campus the CSB ever has investigated.

"We were the first, and so far we're the only accident on a university campus that's been investigated," she said.

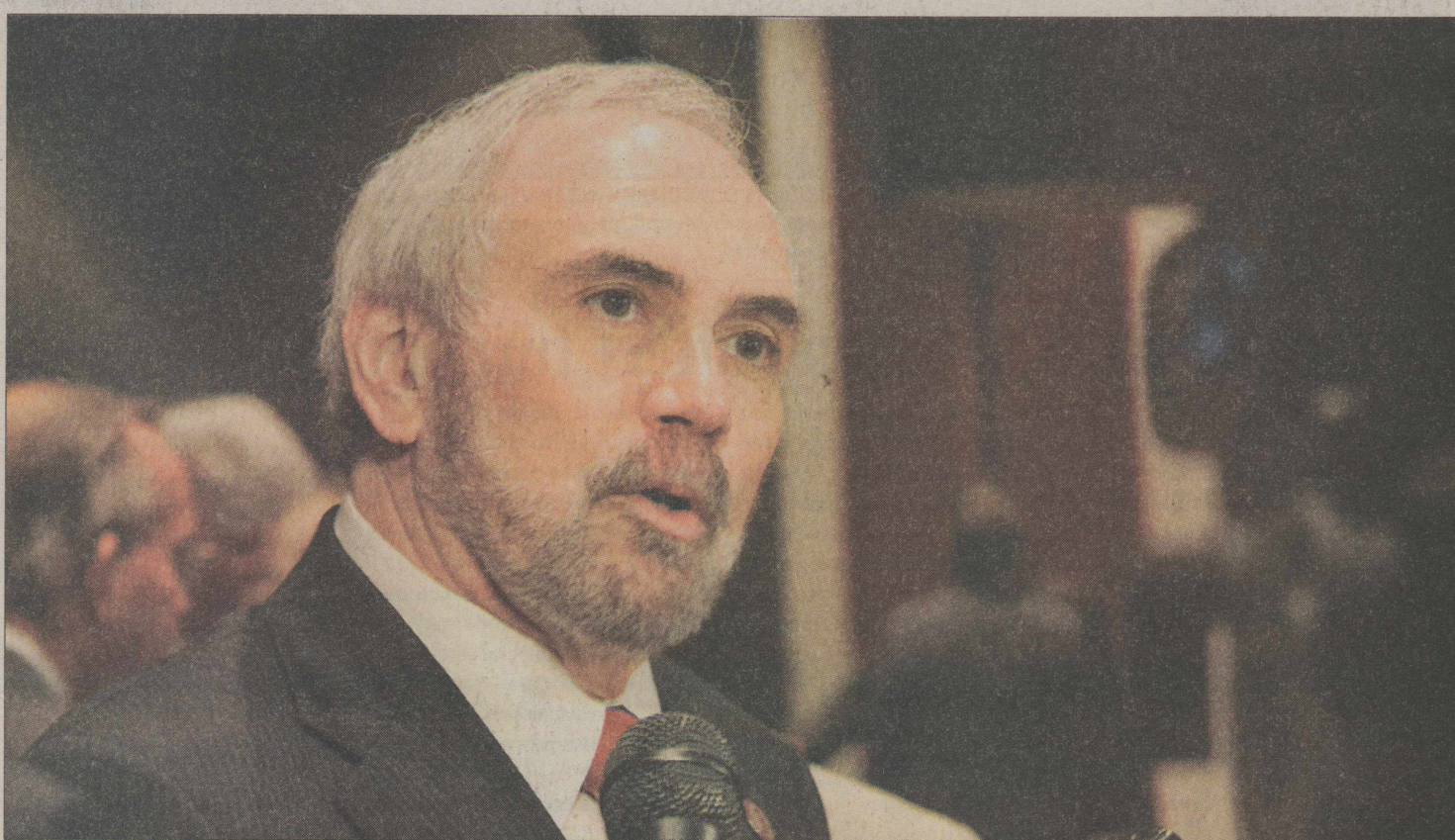
The two recommendations the CSB issued to the university are as follows: to "revise and expand the university chemical hygiene plan (CHP) to ensure that physical safety hazards are addressed and controlled, and develop a verification program that ensures that the safety provisions of the CHP are communicated, followed, and enforced at all levels within the university;" and "develop and implement an incident and near-miss reporting system that can be used as an educational resource for researchers, a basis for continuous safety system improvement, and a metric for the university to assess its safety progress. Ensure that the reporting system has a single point of authority with the responsibility of ensuring that remedial actions are implemented in a timely manner."

Eighmy said Tech is close to meeting both of CSB's recommendations, possibly by September or October. "They asked us to revise our chemical hygiene plan, and its basically been revised according to what we needed it to be and what the Chemical Safety Board needed it to be," he said. "We also brought in an outside consultant to advise us in laboratory safety. We got a lot of good advice in how to update our plan and its been updated, but we just need it to be ratified when the faculty is back on campus in the fall."

Eighmy said they also launched a Lessons Learned web page so people can learn how to prevent accidents in the laboratory. The web page will be presented next week at a professional meeting.

CSB continued on Pg. 2 >>

Heading Home



PHOTOS COURTESY OF The Crimson White

TOP: ON WEDNESDAY, Guy Bailey, the president of Texas Tech, was announced as the new president of the University of Alabama. ABOVE: Bailey was named as the sole finalist for the position of president at his alma mater, the University of Alabama.

By **KATELIN KELLY**
STAFF WRITER

Tech begins its search for interim, new president

On Wednesday, Texas Tech president Guy Bailey officially was hired as the new president for his alma mater, the University of Alabama.

After serving as president for Tech since 2008, Bailey will return to his home state in the fall to begin his second university presidency position.

"Dr. Bailey has done a remarkable job during his time here at Texas Tech and we hate to lose him," Chancellor Kent Hance said in an official statement released by the university. "The University of Alabama is his alma mater and it's hard to say no when your school asks you to come home. I know that he will do a fine job at Alabama and we all wish him well. We certainly

appreciate his service to Texas Tech University."

Taylor Eighmy, senior vice president for research, said he believes Bailey's vision will continue to be very similar to the vision he held at Tech.

"The notion of being able to go to such a fine institution as the University of Alabama is obviously a credit to his wealth of experience and his standing in the higher education community and how he's revered," Eighmy said. "Obviously we are very sad that he's elected to do this but we're very proud of him and wish him the very best."

In Bailey's time at Tech, Chris Cook, managing director of communications and marketing, said he believes Bailey has been a part of

accomplishing the growth of enrollment without compromising the quality of students being accepted to Tech, the growth of the university and qualifying for the National Research University Fund.

"I think people feel good about the university and people feel good about where we are and the direction we're going," Cook said. "We're not putting the brakes on, we're not tapping the brakes here, and (Bailey) has put a plan in place that it will greatly enhance the profile of the university and not just publicly, but internally as well."

Eighmy said there are four important components of Bailey's presidency that will be important legacies for Tech: his resolving the accreditation issue with the

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; his effective work in enrollment management and wisely growing enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate level; obtaining National Research University Fund eligibility; and his laying the foundation for Tech becoming a great public, research university by 2022, or thereabouts.

"I think that for the time that Dr. Bailey was with us, those four years or so, those four accomplishments will be looked upon very favorably and as we look back on the progression of the growth of the institution," Eighmy said, "I think those will be his signature moments."

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Elizabeth Villfan (Daily Forty-Niner):
Apple's Siri earns bad marks on new report
OPINIONS, Pg. 4

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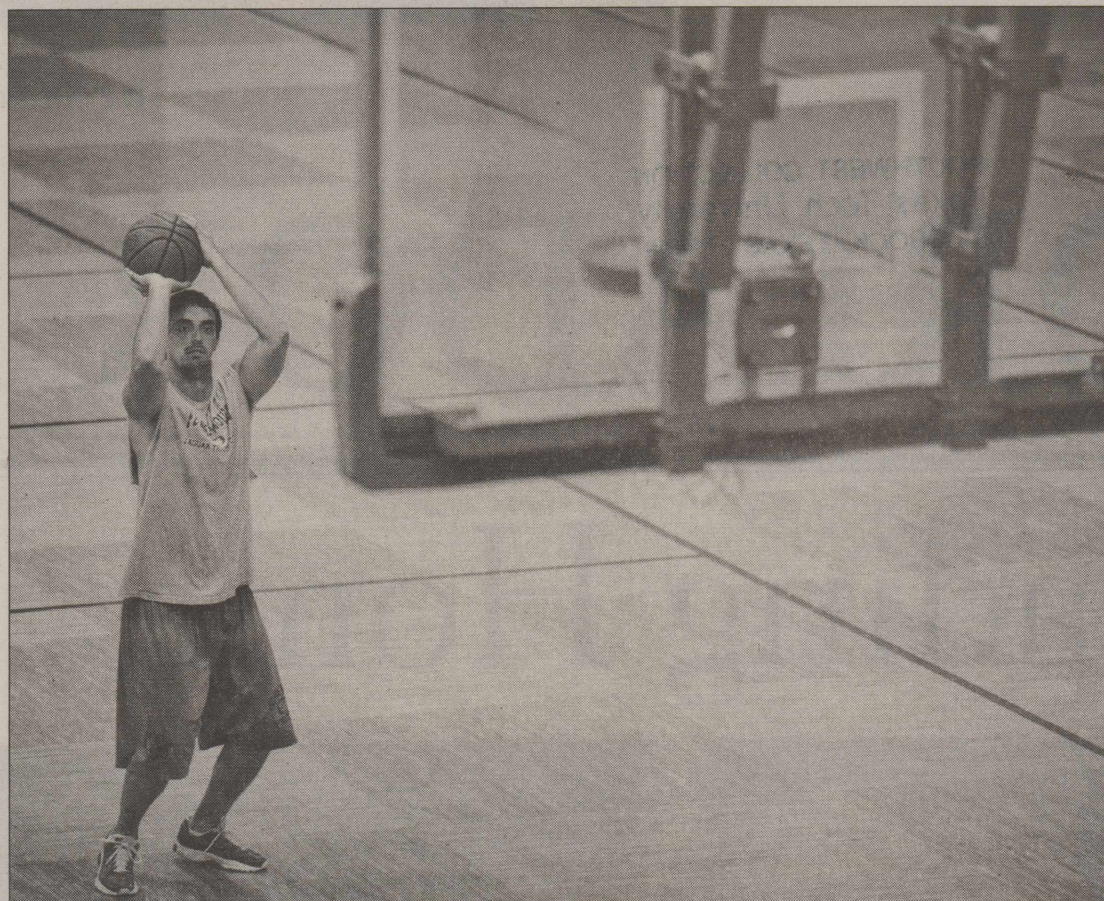


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
WILLIAM CURRY, A graduate student studying accounting from Flower Mound, prepares to shoot the basketball at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Wednesday.

Voter IDs in Texas won't affect turnout

WASHINGTON (AP) — An expert testifying for the state of Texas told a federal court on Wednesday that new voter identification requirements would not affect voter turnout.

Daron Shaw, a distinguished teaching professor in political science at the University of Texas, said there's also no evidence that requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls disproportionately impacts one race over another. Shaw cited a series of surveys and research he conducted at the request of Texas.

"I think the weight of all the evidence is that it will not have an impact on turnout," Shaw said during testimony in a Washington courtroom.

Texas' voter ID law, passed by the state's Republican-controlled Legislature last year, requires voters heading to the polls to present a valid, government-issued photo ID. Currently, Texas only requires voters to show their voter registration cards, which do not have photos, or another acceptable alternative form of ID. Texas' law is similar to other laws passed by GOP-controlled legislatures in Georgia and Indiana.

The Justice Department blocked Texas' new law in March, citing the Voting Rights Act. Texas, in turn, sued the Justice Department bringing the case to Washington, where a three-judge panel is set to decide the fate of the law in a case that will

test the limits of the Voting Rights Act, passed in 1965 as a safeguard on minority voting rights.

Shaw, the political science expert, was the first witness for Texas on Wednesday. Under cross-examination, Justice Department attorneys questioned Shaw about the methodology of his research and asked about his outside work. Shaw said he had worked as a political strategist for both of President George W. Bush's presidential campaigns.

Earlier Wednesday, Justice Department witness Victoria Rose Rodriguez finished her testimony. Lawyers for Texas cross-examined her, trying to show that the 18-year-old Rodriguez from San Antonio could easily obtain the new voter photo ID. The attorneys asked her a series of questions about what documents she has and pointed out that those would be enough for her to obtain the photo ID.

In her testimony Tuesday, Rodriguez testified that she's currently a registered voter but would not be able to meet the requirements of Texas' new law. She said she lacked the necessary documents and the ability to travel to a location where she can obtain the newly required voter ID.

Both the state of Texas and the Justice Department are calling witnesses out of order so that travel schedules of those testifying can be accommodated. As a result, witnesses for both sides continued to

be called to the stand Wednesday.

State Sen. Rodney Ellis said he believed certain Republican lawmakers passed the voter ID bill with racial motives in mind, at least partly.

"Based on my experience they knew what they are doing," said the Houston Democrat and Justice Department witness, referring to his GOP colleagues in the Senate. "They're good people doing a bad thing."

"That bill has everything to do with race."

The Rev. Peter Johnson, another Justice Department witness, said he has worked on registering voters, primarily minorities, for more than 40 years.

"I continue to do it, because I have friends in the graveyard for their right to vote," said Johnson, who lives in the Dallas area.

He said Texas' new law confounds and offends him. He said the law seems to make it more difficult for blacks to vote while insinuating that blacks and other minorities regularly commit voter fraud.

Convincing blacks to vote is an ongoing struggle, and laws like Texas' add to the problem, Johnson said.

Lydia Camarillo testified that her group's work in registering Latino voters would become much more difficult if the Texas law is allowed to take effect.

"When you create a situation and a law that creates more obstacles, it will have a negative impact" on voting, said Camarillo, vice president of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

Health law would cost Texas less

AUSTIN (AP) — Fully implementing the federal health care law and adding 2 million people to Medicaid would cost Texas \$11 billion less than previously estimated, the state's health and human services commissioner said Thursday.

Tom Suehs said it would cost \$15 billion to \$16 billion over 10 years if Texas fully implemented the law. That's 42 percent less than his initial estimate of \$26 billion to \$27 billion to expand Medicaid to include poor single adults and more children.

A study by the federal, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the additional cost for Medicaid expansion is 2.8 percent more than what an individual state would normally spend on the program.

Suehs provided the updated estimate to the state Legislature after Republican Gov. Rick Perry on Monday told federal officials he will reject any attempt to expand Medicaid in Texas. The governor has the power to veto bills and the GOP-controlled Legislature is unlikely to challenge his decision.

"Medicaid spending already consumes more than 20 percent of our budget. It is an unsustainable, budget-busting program," Perry spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said Thursday.

Suehs cautioned that a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act is complex with differing interpretations that could lead to more cost-estimate revisions.

"This will get refined as we see the complexities of what we need to do," the soon-to-retire health commissioner told legislators.

The Supreme Court upheld most of the federal health care law, but

ruled that the federal government cannot coerce states into expanding Medicaid, which is a joint federal-state health insurance program for the poor and disabled. Under the new law, the federal government would pay for most of the additional costs of expanding the number of people with health insurance, with the state share capped at 10 percent.

About 24 percent of Texans lack health insurance, Suehs said, the largest percentage of any state. A recent Gallup poll placed the number at 27 percent.

Suehs said expanding Medicaid would reduce the number of uninsured from nearly 5.9 million to 2.9 million. "Without Medicaid expansion, the uninsured would be back to 3.9 (million)," he said.

He agreed with Perry's stance that Medicaid should not be expanded. Suehs said the program needs to be improved before that happens.

Texas has one of the most restrictive Medicaid programs in the country, offering coverage only to the disabled, children and some parents. Last year, state legislators underfunded Medicaid by \$4.8 billion. Suehs told lawmakers he will be asking them to make up that shortfall when they meet again in January.

State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin, questioned the wisdom of rejecting additional federal funds to help lower the number of Texas residents who are uninsured. Currently, the health care of those without insurance is covered by county taxes when those people go to the emergency room instead of a regular doctor, Dukes said.

"It doesn't seem to me to be pen-

ny-wise that when the reimbursement rates could go up and so many more people who are part of the uninsured population ... could be covered that some people won't even consider this expansion," Dukes said.

Suehs said it's up to lawmakers to decide who will pay to cover those uninsured people: counties, Medicaid or private insurance.

"I assure you Ms. Dukes that if (the federal government) would give me the four or five things I think are necessary to create accountability and flexibility in the Medicaid program, I'd go knock on the governor's door tomorrow and say, 'Let's change your position,'" Suehs said in response to the lawmaker's comments.

The federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid do not allow states to create individual specifications for who is eligible or the best way to reimburse doctors, Suehs said.

"Some of the fixes are very simple and may be part of the negotiations with the federal government in the future," he said.

State figures break down the data on the uninsured in Texas this way: 36 percent are eligible for federally subsidized insurance under the Affordable Care Act, 14 percent are already eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled, 15 percent are ineligible because they are illegal immigrants and 11 percent can afford insurance, but choose not to buy it and will now be required to under the law.

Expanding Medicaid would reduce Texas' uninsured population by 24 percent.

"The big difference is the childless adult," Suehs said, in explaining who would be added.

Bailey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The search for a candidate to serve as interim president will start as soon as possible, Robert Giovannetti, associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing, said. Once a search committee and advisory committee are formed, Giovannetti said, Hance hopes to have an interim in place by the August board meeting on Aug. 9.

"We will continue to ad-

vance towards our goals set in our strategic plan," Hance said in an official statement released by the university, "I have been in contact with the Board of Regents and we will be working to name an interim president soon."

During the search for a new president, Eighmy said, it is essential for the future of Tech that the foundation Bailey has laid will continue to be a strong foundation as new leaders come in and the institution grows.

A website will be set up, Giovannetti said, for people

to either nominate candidates or for candidates to put their own names into consideration. In addition to the website, advertisements will be placed in publications that typically support those kinds of ads, Giovannetti said.

"I think, as Chancellor Hance has said in other statements, we'll do a nationwide search and he wants to find the best candidate possible," Giovannetti said, "and I think they'll be very thorough in looking for the right candidate."

»»kkelly@dailytoreador.com

CSB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Sometimes you can learn the hard way by having accidents," he said, "but it's better to learn by realizing you almost had an accident and put that out there and letting people look at it and understand what they can do differently."

In addition to these recommendations, President Guy Bailey created six self-imposed requirements, which include:

adapt elements of physical risk into Tech's chemical hygiene plan; require Tech to become an exemplary institution around the culture of safety; require the university to report annually to the CSB about progress made toward improving the culture of laboratory safety, the parameters needing definition; establish a TTU Faculty Chemical Safety Committee to help firmly establish the culture of laboratory safety; acquire an online chemical inventory system; and require the Provost and the Vice

President for Research to make laboratory safety an element of annual evaluations. Other requirements are to be determined.

"We are still making progress on the six recommendations Dr. Bailey's provided us with," Eighmy said, "and we'll be accounting our status of those to the Chemical Safety Board."

Eighmy said the university world is watching how Tech responds to the CSB investigation.

"A number of prominent universities have had very serious safety issues with loss of lives," he said. "The professional staff inside universities and administrative leadership is watching what is happening here at Tech, so we elected to put all of our processes and procedures about how we're changing our culture and meeting these obligations up on our website. It gets visited a lot by professional community out in higher ed."

Eighmy said Tech will continue to evolve and change as a university around the idea that laboratory safety is a form of excellence and scholarship.

"We want the whole world to watch as we grow and change," he said. "We're going to keep that pressure on ourselves."

»»atubbs@dailytoreador.com

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Stinger
- 5 Banded marble
- 10 Saudi Arabia neighbor
- 14 Earthen pot
- 15 Gruesome
- 16 Got up
- 17 Brisket-making flair?
- 20 Diver's concern
- 21 Perps' patterns
- 22 Blood of the gods
- 23 1988 self-titled C&W album
- 25 Brilliance
- 26 Hidden dietary supplements?
- 31 Broke (in)
- 32 Zap
- 33 Mil. authority
- 36 Pasta ____ food brand
- 37 Smallest
- 38 Verve
- 40 Festive retreat
- 41 Talking iPhone feature
- 42 ____ rod
- 44 Teen's response to "You need to shave?"
- 46 Medium card
- 48 The Eagles' ____ Eyes
- 49 Film director Morris
- 50 PC key
- 52 John or Christine of Fleetwood
- 54 Mac
- 56 Annoyance ____ and a hint to how 17-, 26- and 44-Across are formed?
- 59 Snippy retort
- 60 Harden
- 61 Avant-garde
- 62 YouTube co-founder Steve
- 63 Plant sometimes called heart's-ease
- 64 Conks out

DOWN

- 1 One of six in this clue
- 2 Soothing balm
- 3 Insult
- 4 Deli choice
- 5 Poetic puglist
- 6 Perp, perhaps
- 7 Ship that survived the Clashing Rocks
- 8 Advice
- 9 Author LeShan
- 10 Ancient source of counsel
- 11 Starbucks flavor
- 12 "Give it ____"
- 13 Poetic negative
- 18 Motif
- 19 Specific market type
- 24 Set of potential suppliers
- 25 Bliss
- 26 TV adjuncts
- 27 Place to see stacks
- 28 Talking Heads bassist
- 29 Weymouth called heart's-ease
- 30 Small power sources
- 33 Marsh critter
- 34 Ho Chi ____ City
- 35 Teaspoon, maybe
- 38 Significant period
- 41 White Russian spec
- 43 ____ to be born and ____
- 44 Like some T-shirt images
- 45 Stomach issues
- 46 Pan
- 47 Get up
- 49 Large-scale work
- 51 Avoid
- 53 Part of Caesar's boast
- 54 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 55 Company that created Rocky Road ice cream
- 57 Barely beat
- 58 Ottoman official

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GOAT SASSY RAGA
ARCH STAKE IVAN
SCOOTERPIE SOLO
PAPUA ESP IOWAN
GRES AUNT
SHOOTINGSTARS
SCOTTS NTHPOWER
ORB AUS OAT
TOENAILS PAELLA
SCRAMBLEDEGG
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By Mike Torch 7/13/12

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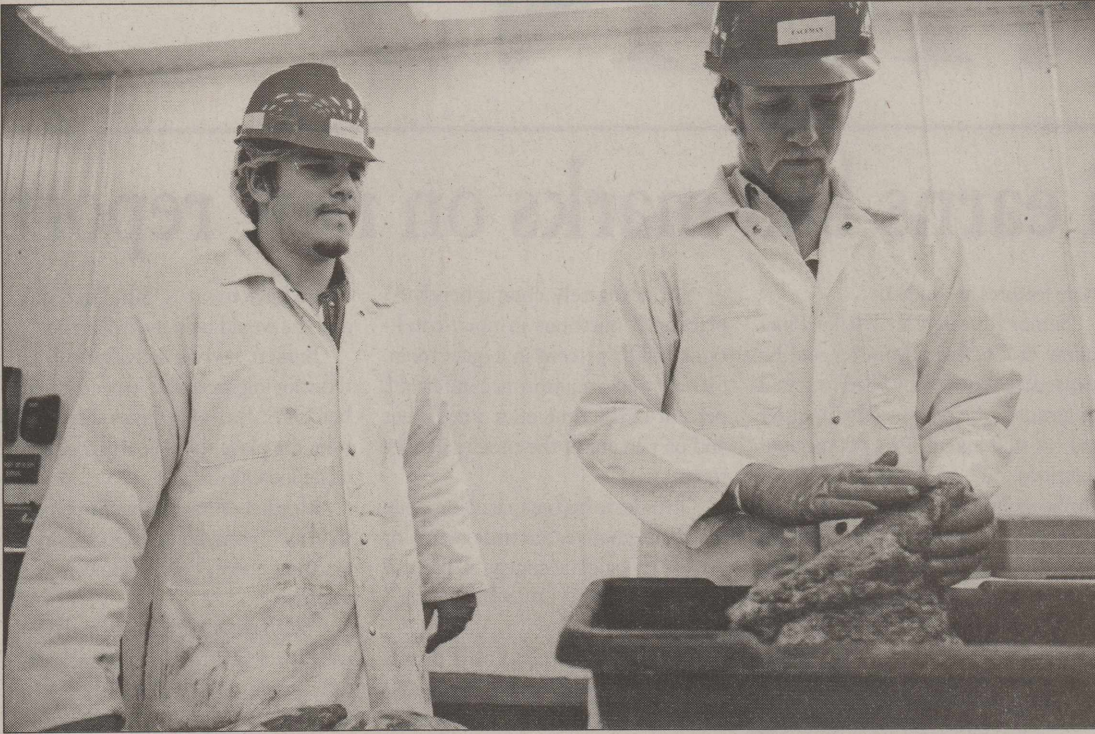


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

TYLER NEUMAN, A sophomore animal science major from Hondo, watches as Clayton Krause, a junior animal science and meat science majors from New Braunfels, applies a dry rub seasoning to some beef rib on Wednesday in the Meat Lab.

Report challenges Mexico's choices in drug war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexico's reliance on the military to combat widespread drug violence and crime has been largely ineffective and has led to increases in human rights violations, according to a congressional report released Thursday.

The majority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which traveled to Mexico in April for extensive interviews with U.S. and Mexican officials, said in the study that the administration of President Felipe Calderon has made progress in confronting organized crime bosses, but the stopgap use of the military to pick up the slack for the police has had limited success.

"Heavy reliance upon the military to quell lawlessness and directly confront the narcotics syndicates appears to have been largely ineffective — and in some instances to have exacerbated the violence suffered by civilians," the report said.

Like Calderon, Mexico's President-elect Pena Nieto will be under pressure to deal with the rampant violence. The

report said that since December 2006, when Calderon began his campaign against organized crime, there have been more than 55,000 drug-related homicides. The report briefly described the horrific tactics used by organized crime.

"All too frequently mass killings include women and minors. Bodies visibly mutilated are hung from bridges and severed heads are deposited in public places. In at least one instance, a pig's head was sewn onto a torso," the report said.

Calderon's efforts to combat crime and stem the violence receive strong support from the majority of Mexicans, the report said. However, significant numbers of Mexicans doubt that the government can stop the drug violence. That's due in part to suspicions about the police and judicial system, which have been plagued by corruption and ineffectiveness.

As the United States and Mexico maintain close ties, the report recommended that Congress provide at least \$250 million a year for the next four years for the Merida Initiative, the cooperative

security effort. The money would allow Mexico to speed up judicial reforms and overhaul of the state police forces.

Since 2008, Congress has appropriated \$1.9 billion for the initiative, named for the Mexican city that hosted Calderon and former President George W. Bush in 2007. By April of this year, the United States had provided about \$1 billion worth of equipment, technical assistance and training.

"Mexico's presidential transition provides a new window to discuss and debate the best security strategies to deal with the serious violence plaguing Mexico," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., said in a statement. "As the political landscape continues to change in both countries, this report underscores the importance of continuity in two critical areas — judicial and police reform. Mexicans have committed to these fundamental reforms and as tough as they will be to implement they are fundamental for any sustained reduction in violence in Mexico."

BP agrees to pay \$13M for Texas refinery penalties

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oil giant BP has agreed to pay an additional \$13 million to settle charges of failing to fix safety violations at its Texas City oil refinery after a 2005 explosion killed 15 workers.

The settlement announced Thursday is the latest move toward resolving hundreds of violations at the plant alleged by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

BP had already paid \$50 million in 2010 to settle some of the OSHA violations. The government had been seeking a total of \$80 million in penalties, the largest fine in its history.

Resolving the fines could help BP in its effort to sell the Texas City refinery, now the nation's sixth largest. The settlement comes as BP attempts to restore its global reputation and resolve litigation over the massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Their behavior has significantly improved in terms of safety since then, and I think this will send a strong message out

to the industry as well," said Jordan Barab, deputy assistant secretary for OSHA.

Iain Conn, BP's global head of refining and marketing, said the company is committed to safety and to "a strong relationship" with OSHA.

The settlement resolves all but 30 of more than 700 violations discovered at the plant in 2009. Barab said he expects the rest to be litigated or settled in the future but stressed that there are no further imminent dangers at the refinery.

Of the remaining citations, 110 were withdrawn and most of the others were reclassified as less severe under the settlement.

The fines were assessed after OSHA said the company failed to comply with the original terms of a 2005 agreement to take corrective measures following the deadly blast four years earlier. OSHA also said BP had committed hundreds of new violations when it failed to follow industry practices in its pressure relief safety systems.

Under the terms of the settlement, BP

must file a report by the end of the year showing that it has corrected all safety violations.

Biden tells NAACP Obama stands by his convictions

HOUSTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden rallied support for President Barack Obama before the nation's largest civil rights organization on Thursday, declaring that Republican challenger Mitt Romney's election-year agenda would hurt — not help — working families in the black community.

Biden drew cheers as he credited Obama for championing a landmark health care law, launching the mission that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and stepping in to rescue the financial system and U.S. automakers General Motors and Chrysler.

"He has put country first," Biden said.

Biden addressed the NAACP convention a day after Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said he'd do more for African-Americans than Obama, the nation's first black president. Romney was booed when he said he'd repeal Obama's sweeping health care reform law but otherwise got a polite reception as he reached out to a traditionally Democratic voting bloc.

The vice president never specifically cited Romney's argument that he could serve blacks better than Obama, choosing instead to dissect Romney's policy proposals and make the case that the Republican's agenda would hurt black families. Biden outlined differences between Obama and Romney on health care, education, energy, women's rights and research, saying the two rivals had "fundamentally different visions."

"I believe this election will come down to character, conviction and vision. And it will not surprise you — I don't think it's even a close call," Biden said. "So it's time, it's time for the NAACP to do what it's always done ... To stand up. Make our case. Stand our ground. And make real our vision for America."

Obama did not speak to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this year, appearing instead in a taped video message. In the brief remarks, Obama said: "I stand on your shoulders and at the NAACP you have always believed in the American

promise." He reiterated many of the themes of his re-election campaign, saying the nation needs to "build an economy where everyone can have the confidence that the hard work will also pay off."

The president said he was sorry he couldn't be there in person. Obama had no public events scheduled Thursday but was to be interviewed at the White House, along with first lady Michelle Obama, by Charlie Rose of CBS News.

White House officials noted that Obama spoke to the NAACP convention during the 2008 presidential campaign and in 2009, while Mrs. Obama spoke to the group in 2010. The president is scheduled to address the National Urban League in New Orleans on July 25.

Black voters are a key part of Obama's re-election strategy, with about 95 percent supporting him in 2008. Polls have shown black voters supporting Obama at comparable levels this year but Romney could undercut the president in states such as North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Florida, all of which have large black communities, if he can persuade some black voters to support him or if they stay home on Election Day.

Romney said Wednesday that much more must be done to improve education in the nation's cities and noted that the 14.4 percent unemployment rate among blacks is higher than

the 8.2 percent national average.

"If you understood who I truly am in my heart, and if it were possible to fully communicate what I believe is in the real, enduring best interest of African-American families, you would vote for me for president," Romney said.

In Obama's absence, Biden offered a fiery defense of administration policies while warning of what a Romney presidency would bring to civil rights. He asked attendees to "imagine" what the Justice Department would be like under a Romney administration and "imagine when his senior adviser on the Constitution is Robert Bork," the Republican Supreme Court nominee who was defeated by Democrats in 1987. Biden was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time.

Biden received sustained applause throughout his address. When he spoke about civil rights and administration efforts to expand voting rights and not diminish them, the crowd stood up and loudly cheered. When Biden said, "Did you think we'd be fighting these battles again?" people in the crowd answered in unison, "No."

Biden said there was a lot more he could say on protecting voting rights but that he was "preaching to the choir." "Say it, say it," many in the crowd responded. As Biden was wrapping up, he said, "Let me close, my friends," prompting members of the audience to boo and yell, "No!"

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UNFURNISHED

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UNFURNISHED

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3/2/2. Large bedrooms and closets. 6415 33rd Street. 975/month + deposit. 314 N. Elkhardt 3/2/2. \$975+ deposit. 214-543-8545.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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2/1 HOUSE close to Tech. 3019 43rd Street. Good Neighborhood. All appliances provided, large backyard. \$700/month \$500 Deposit. Call 632-0028.

2/2 ALL bills and cable paid, Updated, Pet friendly, Tri Plex, Close to Tech 2315 25th \$900/mo http://merlinspetshop.com/tech-area-rentals.html 806-441-0611

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CLOSE TO TECH

Four blocks off campus on 21st. Large one bedroom garage apartment. Appliances. Private fenced yard. \$475/month. Pet considered with pet fee. Available August 1st. Call Ann at 795-2011 or stop by our office at 4211-34th.

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OPINIONS

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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2012

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Today's
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9	6						
7			3 5		2 9		
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Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

4	8	5	3	9	2	6	7	1
2	7	6	1	4	8	9	3	5
9	3	1	7	5	6	8	2	4
3	6	2	5	1	9	7	4	8
5	9	7	2	8	4	3	1	6
8	1	4	6	3	7	5	9	2
7	2	3	8	6	1	4	5	9
6	5	9	4	2	3	1	8	7
1	4	8	9	7	5	2	6	3

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

A safe place for students & staff to bring concerns.

"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction."
~Winston Churchill

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Apple's Siri earns bad marks on new report

By **ELIZABETH VILLFAN**
DAILY FORTY-NINER (CALIFORNIA STATE U. -- LONG BEACH)

Siri is in big trouble. She has a "D" on her report card.

Apple's voice recognition program, Siri, works accurately only 68 percent of the time in quiet rooms, according to a report released by the Minneapolis investment bank Piper Jaffray & Co.

The study gave Siri a "D" for accuracy, noting that it will improve as

more features are added.

Senior Research analyst for Piper Jaffray & Co. Gene Munster said he wanted to know how Siri stacked up against a Google search. Munster and his staff asked Siri 1,600 general questions, 800 on the busy streets of Minneapolis and 800 in a quiet room.

The study found that Google understands 100 percent of questions presented and replies accurately 86 percent of the time.

Siri accurately comprehends 83 percent of questions in noisy conditions and 89 percent in a quiet room. Siri answers inquiries accurately 62 percent of the time on a quiet street and 68 percent of the time in a quiet room.

"In order to become a viable mobile search alternative, Siri must match or surpass Google's accuracy of B+ and move from a grade D to a B or higher," Munster said.

Senior Cal State Long Beach kinesiology major Sean O'Neill said he didn't buy the new iPhone because of Siri.

"I hardly even use Siri," O'Neill said. "I think the only time I've used it is to mess around. I'll tell her I have a dead body, and she'll look up places for me to bury the dead body. It's hilarious!"

CSULB alumnus Steven Burkett said he finds Siri useful most of the time.

"She's definitely helped me out a few times when I was at the bars on Second Street," Burkett said. "All I

would have to say is 'Siri, I'm drunk,' and she would help me call a taxi."

Burkett said he feels Siri still has room for improvement, especially with her GPS. Siri only gives directions from the place the user is at, not from other locations.

Munster estimates that Siri is more than two years behind Google in its learning curve, but he expects it to improve.

"With the iOS 6 release in the fall, we expect Siri to improve meaningfully while reducing its reliance on Google from 60 percent to 48 percent," Munster said.

Elizabeth Perez, a CSULB junior nursing major, said Siri did not live up to her expectations.

"I would rather do a Google search and get the right information than waste my time asking Siri, because every time I ask her something she never gives me the right answers," Perez said.

According to the help support section on Apple's website, there will most likely be an update sometime this fall to improve Siri's inaccuracies.

Let us know what you think.

Check out *The DT* online at
www.dailytoreador.com

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